

Message Text

SECRET

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65

ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W

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R 050944Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7637

S E C R E T BELGRADE 5122

NODIS

FOR EAGLEBURGER FROM SWEITZER

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: YO

SUBJ: FLAPS DOWN

REF: STATE 192673

1. LARRY: YOUR ADVICE AND SUGGESTIONS (HOWEVER SELF-CHARACTERIZED) ARE ALWAYS WELCOME. MY EXPLICIT INSTRUCTIONS TO EMBASSY BELGRADE SINCE THE TITO BLAST HAVE BEEN -- AND REMAIN -- TO COOL IT AND AVOID FLAPPING. (IN FACT, GIVEN THE CATATONIC IMPACT THE OLD MAN'S THUNDERBOLT HAD ON THE LOCAL DIPLOMATIC AND JOURNALISTIC HOG-FARM, WE HAVE BEEN ALMOST UNSEEMLY NONCHALANT.)

2. I HOPE YOUR LOQUACIOUS MACEDONIAN LUNCH PARTNER AND HIS FRIENDS WILL GET THE SAME COUNSEL YOU WERE PROMPTED TO GIVE US.

3. ONE REGRETTABLE NOTE ON THIS WEEK'S EVENTS: JERRY SCHECHTER HAS BEEN IN BELGRADE THE PAST FEW DAYS. TIME WILL CARRY A STORY. YESTERDAY HE TOLD ME HIS WASHINGTON OFFICE HAD OPEN-LINE TELEXED HIM HERE THAT THEY HAD BEEN TOLD ROBINSON ASKED FOR REPRIMAND OF SILBERMAN AND SECRETARY TURNED HIM DOWN; ALSO THAT PEOPLE (UNSPECIFIED) IN DEPARTMENT SAID SILBERMAN HAS BEEN "GRANDSTANDING."

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4. PERSONALLY, I FELT STRONGLY YOU WERE RIGHT WHEN YOU WROTE THE NYT SOME TIME BACK DEFENDING THE SECRETARY. AFTER THIS LAST WEEK I UNDERSTAND BETTER HOW YOU THEN FELT. THE NYT (RIGHT NOW) DOESN'T NEED A LETTER FROM ME; I SUSPECT POLITIKA AND BORBA WOULDN'T PUBLISH ONE.

5. THE FLAPS (YOU'LL EXCUSE THE MATAPHOR) ARE DOWN, PARTNER. CHEERS. BRANDON.
SWETIZER

SECRET

NNN

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